

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

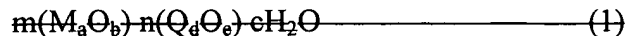
1. (currently amended): A microporous soundproofing material comprising an expanded material formed through the step of impregnating a mixture of an olefin elastomer and an olefin polymer with an inert gas under high pressure of from 6 to 100 MPa and then decompressing the impregnated mixture, wherein:

the expanded material comprises closed cells having an average cell diameter of from 0.1 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$  uniformly distributed throughout the whole interior thereof;

the expanded material has a compressive load at 50% compression of 20  $\text{N}/\text{cm}^2$  or lower;

the ratio of characteristic impedance of the microporous soundproofing material to characteristic impedance of air ( $Z_c^{\text{mat}}/Z_c$ ) is from 5 to 50;

and the expanded material contains a flame retardant comprising a hydrated metal compound which is a composite metal hydroxide of  $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{ZnO} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  or  $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{NiO} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  represented by formula (1):



~~wherein M and Q represent different metal elements and Q is a metal element belonging to a group selected from Groups IVa, Va, VIa, VIIa, VIII, Ib, and IIb of the periodic table; and m, n, a, b, c, d, and e may be the same or different and each is a positive number.~~

2. (previously presented) The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the expanded material is formed from an unexpanded molding comprising the thermoplastic elastomer.

3. (previously presented): The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the expanded material is formed from a molten thermoplastic elastomer, and the impregnated elastomer is subjected to molding simultaneously with decompression.

4. (previously presented): The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the expanded material has undergone heating after the decompression.

5. (original): The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the inert gas is carbon dioxide.

6. (original): The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the inert gas is in a supercritical state during the impregnation.

7. (original): The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the inert gas has a pressure of 10 MPa or higher during the impregnation.

8. (previously presented): The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the expanded material has a cell density of from  $10^5$  to  $10^{14}$  cells per  $\text{cm}^3$ .

9. (previously presented): The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the expanded material comprises closed cells having an average cell diameter of from 0.1 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  evenly distributed throughout the whole interior thereof, and the expanded material has a cell density of from  $3 \times 10^8$  to  $10^{14}$  cells per  $\text{cm}^3$ .

10. (previously presented): The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the expanded material has a relative density of 0.6 or lower.

Claims 11-15 (canceled).

16. (previously presented): A method of improving the soundproofing performance of an electronic appliance, which comprises applying the microporous soundproofing material of claim 1 inside the electronic appliance.

17. (previously presented): The microporous soundproofing material of claim 1, wherein the flame retardant is  $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{ZnO} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ .